

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Official Action of July 11, 2006, Applicant encloses a Request for Continuing Examination together with the prescribed fee. The supporting submissions are set out below.

Applicant submits that the enclosed RCE fully complies with 37 CFR 1.114 and therefore asks that the finality of the last report be withdrawn.

Amendments

The claims have been amended to define the scanner's fault tolerant decoding ability. The decoder will continue to decode several duplicate copies of the digitally encoded image data until it has successfully decoded the entire image.

These features are discussed in detail from page 12, lines 6-9. Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

Submissions

35 USC §103

Previously presented claims 2 to 6 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,304,345 to Patton et al, and US 6,894,794 to Patton et al in view of US 6,160,642 to Mui et al.

Currently amended claim 6 introduces the robust decoding capability of the scanner. The bit image of data read by the invisible ink scanner is encoded with enough resolution to contain several duplicate copies of the visible image data. Should some of the data be obliterated because of wear and tear to the original photograph, the decoder attempts to decode a second copy of the encoded data. If that is also unsuccessful it decodes a third copy and so on until the processor has all the print data for the visible image. This ensures that the printed visible image is equivalent to the original photograph when first printed even if large portions of the photograph have been damaged or worn.

None of the cited references teach redundant encoding of the image data for the purposes of successfully decoding data for the entire visible image. Accordingly, the citations do not support a §103 rejection of amended claim 6. Likewise, claims 2-5 are also distinguished from the prior art by virtue of their dependence from claim 6.

Conclusion

In light of the above, the Applicant submits that all rejections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

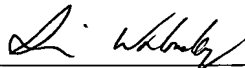
Applicant/s:



Kia Silverbrook



Paul Lapstun



Simon Robert Walmsley

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd
393 Darling Street
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762